

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193769
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA:JFKEANE:MCH
APPROVED BY ARA:JFKEANE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. TEXT OF COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM FOUR CONGRESSMAN SENT
8/10/77 TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN IS TRANSMITTED
BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAS
A COPY OF THE CABLE.

2. QUOTE:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
ROOM 6263 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON DC 20520

DEAR SECRETARY TODMAN:

WE WRITE TO YOU AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DEEPLY CON-
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CERNED WITH THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA.
AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESS HAS TERMINATED OR LIMITED MILITARY
AND ECONOMIC AID TO THREE OF THE COUNTRIES YOU ARE ABOUT
TO VISIT, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT YOUR TRIP WILL BE VIEWED
ABROAD AS WELL AS IN THE UNITED STATES AS REAFFIRMING
AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THOSE NATIONS.

WE OPPOSE ANY DEEPENING OF RELATIONS WITH CHILE,
ARGENTINA, AND URUGUAY, BASED ON THE CONTINUING VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES, AND HOPE THAT YOU
WILL DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO GIVE PRIMACY TO THIS
ISSUE IN THE UPCOMING DIALOGUES.

REGARDING CHILE, WE ARE DISTURBED BY RESPONSES WE
HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO OUR RECENT
INQUIRIES ON BEHALF OF THE "DISAPPEARED". THE REPLY
INDICATES THAT THE U.S. IS BOTH "ENCOURAGED" BY GENERAL
PINOCHET'S SPEECH OF JULY 9, AND HOPEFUL "THAT CURRENT
TRENDS CONTINUE". THE LETTER ALSO STATES THAT THERE HAVE
BEEN NO REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES IN CHILE SINCE JANUARY,
1977. WE MUST TAKE EXCEPTION TO THESE CLAIMS, AND POINT
OUT THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION
OF DISAPPEARANCES IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. FURTHERMORE,
THE LIBERALIZATION PROMISED BY GENERAL PINOCHET DOES NOT
SEEM TO BE BORNE OUT BY SUCH OCCURRENCES AS THE OUTLAWING
IN MARCH OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY GESTURES TO
ASSURE THAT THE CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS INDEED A
CORNERSTONE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

SINCERELY,
TOM HARKIN
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TOBY MOFFETT
GEORGE MILLER
JOHN BURTON

END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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